

Professor Richard Arum, Dean of the School of Education



Professor Richard Arum joined UC Irvine as Dean of the School of Education effective June 30, 2016.

Previously, Dr. Arum – a professor of sociology and education at New York University (2000-2016) – chaired the Department of Sociology and Department of Humanities & Social Sciences in the Professions. He served as director of education research at the Social Science Research Council (2005-2013) and as interim director of NYU’s Institute of Human Development & Social Change.

From 2013-2015, Dr. Arum was senior fellow at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He is currently president-elect of the American Sociological Association’s sociology of education section.

Professor Arum is an expert on the legal and institutional environments of schools, social stratification, and digital education. He has done influential research on the effectiveness of college education at preparing students for transitions to adulthood. His work focuses on student work habits, teaching and curriculum, and the development of critical thinking skills. His educational research is informed by sociological scholarship on socialization, social stratification, and organizations.

Professor Arum began his career as a high school teacher and technology consultant in the Oakland public school system. He earned a doctorate in sociology at UC Berkeley, a M.Ed. in teaching and curriculum at Harvard University, and a B.A. in political science at Tufts University.